

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06771 121611Z

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ACTION FSI-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SSO-00 OPR-02 PER-03 ST-01 MMO-04

ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 A-01 /041 W
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O 121541Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0795

UNCLAS TUNIS 6771

FOR : FSI - H.E. SOLLENBERGER FROM COKES

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, OGEN

SUBJ: ARABIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL TUNIS STATUS REPORT

1. STUDENTS AND STAFF GOT THROUGH FIRST WEEK RELATIVELY WELL CONSIDERING RAPID RELOCATION FROM BEIRUT. MARGARET OMAR HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN GETTING THE STUDENTS BACK TO WORK, I.E., PREPARING MATERIAL, DEVELOPING SCHEDULES AND ASSIGNMENTS. MORALE IS CONTINGENT, WITH ENTHUSIASM GIVING WAY TO EXASPERATION WHICH IS STARTING TO AFFECT ACADEMIC PROGRAM. CONTINUE TO SMOOTH OUT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES BETWEEN HOTEL AND EMBASSY.

2. FOR TREASE: PROGRAM ORGANIZED SMOOTHLY ON LINGUISTIC SIDE, WITH CLASSES REGULAR AND BOTH DIALECT AND FSA BEING USED OUTSIDE CLASS. TUNIS EXPERIENCE ALREADY APPEARS TO BE LEADING TO POSSIBILITY OF UNUSUALLY HIGH PROFICIENCY ACHIEVEMENTS IF PROGRAM CONTINUES AS EXPECTED. DELAY IN ARRIVAL OF SMITH HAS LED TO POSTPONEMENT OF SOME DECISIONS BUT NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED IN SETTLING THESE.

3. ALL TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TUNIS. TM EIGHTS (8) HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY TUNIS PER OFF AND FORWARDED.

4. FSI SCHOOL MATERIAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED. ONE OR TWO BOXES MISSING FROM ORIGINAL MATERIAL SENT FROM BEIRUT. CHECKING
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 06771 121611Z

FOR MISSING BOXES AT THIS TIME. HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY IN-

FORMATION CONCERNING AIRFREIGHT. EMBASSY CHECKING.

5. COPYING MACHINE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR FSI USE. HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY (GSO) TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR RENTAL OF COPYING MACHINE. VERY DIFFICULT TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO STUDENTS AND STAFF. PRESENTLY HAVE TO COME 12 MILES TO EMBASSY TO COPY MATERIAL. CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF STAFF TIME WITH THIS TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT.

6. LOCAL EMPLOYEE FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION STARTED WORK NOVEMBER 10. VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND CONSCIENTIOUS WORKER. MRS. WALKER NOW ON PART-TIME HOURLY RATE. PHYSICAL STRESS AND PASS BEGINNING TO SHOW EFFECT EVEN THOUGH SHE IS WILLING TO CONTINUE. SHE HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS OF RELOCATION AND SHOULD RECEIVE OUR PERSONAL RECOGNITION.

7. TRANSPORTATION: SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS. TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT REQUIREMENTS TO DETERMINE WHEN TO RELEASE ONE OF THE VANS. AMERICAN SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENT NOT ADEQUATE AT THIS TIME. BUS WILL NOT COME TO HOTEL BECAUSE OF INCLINING ROADWAY. CHILDREN MUST BE TAKEN ONE QUARTER MILE TO MAIN ROADWAY AND MUST CROSS OPEN HIGHWAY. MEETING WITH ACST DIRECTOR THIS PM TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENT.

8. STUDENTS ARE IMPATIENTLY AWAITING ANSWER FROM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING SPA. HAVE ASSURED STUDENTS THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY FSI AND DEPT TO COME UP WITH WORKABLE SOLUTION AND THEY WOULD RECEIVE WORD SOONEST.

9. SOME STUDENTS HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MOVE OUT OF HOTEL. HOPE FAVORABLE REPLY TO REFTEL 6609, PARA (2) AUTHORIZING STUDENTS THE OPTION OF FINDING THEIR OWN TEMPORARY LODGING.

10. DIRECTOR SMITH EXPECTED ARRIVE WED NOV 12. ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATION. WITH PRESENT TRANSPORTATION AVAILABILITY SEE NO JUSTIFICATION CAR RENTAL AT THIS TIME.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TUNIS 06771 121611Z

11. RECOMMEND DR. OMAR EXTEND STAY IN TUNIS ONE WEEK TO EFFECT SMOOTH TRANSITION WITH DIRECTOR SMITH. CAN FORESEE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF FEW DAYS FOR DIRECTOR UPON ARRIVAL. PLEASE ADVISE. IF APPROVED, PLEASE NOTIFY OMAR FAMILY.
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